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# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

**ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE**
**124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065**
**Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505**

Memo: re East Timor 8 June 1989
To: George Atkin, DFAT Canberra
From: Pat Walsh
Status: confidential/sources to be protected
Request: investigation of reports and appropriate response.

1. Maria de Oliveira, now an Australian citizen living in Sydney, has been informed that her brother-in-law, Manuel Guterres, was taken from his home in Dili on 25 May 1989 by four Indonesian military. Mr Guterres' wife's attempts to locate his whereabouts have been unsuccessful. The couple have a teenage daughter living in Sydney.

   Mr Guterres is reportedly accused of supplying the resistance with food from his shop in Baucau. Fr Locatelli, director of the Fatumaca technical college, is said to have some association with Mr Guterres, but it is not clear whether this is relevant to the latter's disappearance.

   This report regarding Mr Guterres comes from Timorese who have recently returned from visiting East Timor.

2. Haji Princen of LBH in Jakarta has recently advised that 12 people (unspecified) have been killed in Baucau and 40 arrested. No other details are available.

3. Arsenio Horta in Dili claimed on 21 May that 70 Indonesian soldiers were killed in recent weeks and another 10 or so more recently. No other details are available.

4. It has recently been alleged that Fr Joao de Deus and Fr Locatelli, both of the Baucau area, have been harassed by the Indonesian military in recent times, possibly because of Bishop Belo's letter to the UN Secretary-General calling for genuine self-determination in East Timor. The claims were that the former was physically assaulted and the latter detained.

   Bishop Belo denies this. However he says that Fr de Deus has been physically abused in the past. He also believes that sections of the military want to remove the two clergy from East Timor because they are effectively blocking a direct military assault on Xanana Gusmao and the guerilla resistance in the interior by virtue of Locatelli's ongoing contact and attempts to secure the surrender and future security of the guerillas.

5. Enquiries and, if necessary, action vis-a-vis Mr Guterres' situation above is urgently required.

Ends

FIRST FLOOR, BAILEY'S CORNER, EAST ROW, CANBERRA CITY•GPO BOX 1562 CANBERRA ACT 2601
TELEPHONE (062)47 4822 FAX(062)47 5536 TELEX AA61643 HUMANS
Chairperson Neville Ross Executive Director: Russell Rollason

ACFOA is the co-ordinating body for some 60 Australian non-government organisations working in the field of overseas aid and development